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Monday 23rd January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Industrial Strike Action Information

You may be aware from recent media coverage that teachers within the NEU have voted to take industrial strike action, following a national dispute between the unions and the government. Strike action is being taken for two reasons:

- 1) Pay increases being taken directly from current school budgets rather than the pay difference coming from central government, meaning less resources for our children and schools;
- 2) Teacher pay rises not being in line with inflation and therefore being equivalent to a pay cut.

Following the announcement of strike action by the NEU, the headteachers and other executive leaders of PACE Academy Trust have collectively decided on a course of action to manage the strike days and are in full support of any member of staff at our schools, who decides to take strike action.

I am getting in touch now to give you as much notice as possible that learning may be disrupted on strike days, for your child/children.

The strike days that may affect your children's education are as follows:

- **Wednesday 1 February 2023**
- **Thursday 2 March 2023**
- **Wednesday 15 March 2023**
- **Thursday 16 March 2023**

If your child's class teacher belongs to the NEU and chooses to strike on one or more of the above days:

- Your child's class **will not** be covered by other staff and will be closed that day. Your child will need to remain at home;
- Remote learning **will not** be provided for those children that day;

- Any siblings whose class teacher has either chosen not to strike or is unable to do so due to not being a member of the NEU, will be expected in school that day – please note: absence of siblings where the teacher is present and therefore the class is open, **will be unauthorised**.
- There **will not** be any provision available for children of critical workers within the classes where strike action is being taken.

If your child's teacher is not striking on strike action days:

- Your child **will be** expected in school as usual.

We hope to be informed before the event, by those in the NEU who are choosing to strike and if this is the case, we will let you know as soon as possible. However, as teachers do not need to give prior warning to the school, **we may not know about some classes until the morning of the day itself**. We will endeavour to keep you as informed as we are able to.

I understand that this situation may be frustrating and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. Please may I ask that you do not approach teachers individually about their intentions or decision. We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up-to-date with the situation as it continues. If we are aware of a class needing to close, we will let you know as soon as possible and at the latest, by 8.15am on the first day of strike action.

I want to thank you for your continued support of our teachers, wider staff and school.

Kind regards,

Mrs Phyllis Sternberg
Headteacher